

# New Jersey State House

The **New Jersey State House** is located in [Trenton](#) and is the capitol building for the [U.S. state of New Jersey](#). Built in 1790, it is the third-oldest state house in continuous legislative use in the United States; only the [Maryland State Capitol](#) in [Annapolis](#) and the [Virginia State Capitol](#) in [Richmond](#) are older. The building houses both chambers of the [Legislature](#) (the [Senate](#) and the [General Assembly](#)), as well as offices for the [Governor](#), [Lieutenant Governor](#) and several state government departments. The building is the closest capitol building to a state border of any state capitol, with the bridge to [Pennsylvania](#) being within walking distance a few blocks away. The building also sits nearly exactly on a straight line between [Center City, Philadelphia](#) and [Downtown Manhattan](#).

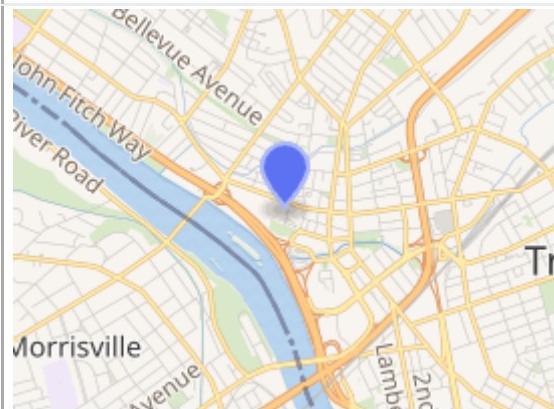
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## History

After the Legislature relocated to Trenton from [Perth Amboy](#) in 1790, it purchased land for £250 and 5 shillings. Construction on the new state house, designed by [Philadelphia](#)-based architect [Jonathan Doane](#), began in 1792.<sup>[2]</sup> The Doane building was covered in stucco, measured 150 by 50 feet (46 m × 15 m) and housed the senate and house chambers in opposite wings. To meet the demands of the growing state, the structure was expanded several times during the 19th century, by noted architects such as [John Notman](#) of [Philadelphia](#) who created office wing on north side in 1845 and [Samuel Sloan](#), also of [Philadelphia](#) who designed new wings to house both legislative chambers in 1871. On March 21, 1885, a large fire destroyed the State Street wing. [Lewis Broome](#), of [Jersey City](#) led the reconstruction of the building. He used a rare pigmented brick from the Lippincott Brick Co. of Farmingdale. The brick used was a one-of-a-kind color for the region.

## New Jersey State House



### General information

<b>Architectural style</b>	American Renaissance
<b>Location</b>	125 West State Street Trenton, New Jersey United States
<b>Coordinates</b>	40°13'14"N 74°46'12"W
<b>Construction started</b>	1792
<b>Completed</b>	1911
<b>Client</b>	State of New Jersey
<b>Owner</b>	State of New Jersey

### Design and construction

<b>Architect</b>	Jonathon Doane (1792), John Notman (1845), Samuel Sloan
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Merchantville architect Arnold Moses reconstructed the Senate wing in the American Renaissance style.

The New Jersey State House attained its current size in 1911 when a four-story office block replaced the original 1792 structure. The only major change since has been modernization of the main corridor in 1950. A 1960 plan, called for the replacement of the oldest sections of the structure with modern legislative chambers, however it was never implemented.

## Renovation

A lengthy renovation and restoration project began in 1987. The project encompassed the legislative section of the building, an upgrade of mechanical and electrical systems, and the construction of the South Addition (office space).<sup>[3]</sup> A \$300 restoration of the entire building, which was in a state of disrepair, began in 2017.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

## Design

The New Jersey State House is unusual among state capitol buildings in the United States, the majority of which are reminiscent of the US Capitol. The building consists of two parallel structures connected by the dome-capped rotunda, resembling the letter *H*, with its long arm parallel to State Street. A long portico wing, added by Notman and subsequently enlarged, extends west from the rotunda toward the Delaware River. To this portico, a number of architecturally dissimilar, unusually-shaped structures have been added. These structures have been the subject of subsequent renovations to blend them with the original wing. The State House is set not on a park-like campus, as are many state houses, rather it is integrated into an urban setting along historic State Street and is surrounded by other legislative buildings. The most scenic view of the building is from the west, near the Delaware River, and is the side dominated by the various additions. Viewed from State Street, the dome is scarcely visible and there is little sense of the scale or design of the building. The Governor's office occupies the remaining portion of the original 1792 State House.



The General Assembly chamber



New Jersey State House (second from left with the gold dome) and Trenton skyline during 2005 flood

Tours are offered daily Monday through Saturday, except state holidays. The tours typically include the Senate and Assembly chambers galleries, party conference rooms, the rotunda and Governor's Office reception room. Middle and high school teachers can receive a grant from the Eagleton Institute to cover the cost of transportation for field trips to take tours of the New Jersey State House<sup>[6]</sup>.

(1871), Lewis Broome (1889)

### U.S. Historic district Contributing property

Designated	August 27, 1976
Part of	State House Historic District
Reference no.	76001161 <sup>[1]</sup>

## See also

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- [List of the oldest buildings in New Jersey](#)
- [List of state and territorial capitols in the United States](#)

## References

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1. "New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places — Mercer County" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20130516134942/http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr\\_lists/mercer.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20130516134942/http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr_lists/mercer.pdf)) (PDF). New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection — Historic Preservation Office. January 22, 2015. Archived from the original ([http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr\\_lists/mercer.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr_lists/mercer.pdf)) (PDF) on May 16, 2013.
2. Hauck, Eldon (1991). *American Capitols: An Encyclopedia of the State, National and Territorial Capital Edifices of the United States* ([https://www.amazon.com/American-Capitals-Encyclopedia-National-Territorial/dp/0786418664/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1429040504&sr=1-1&keywords=hauck+american+capitols#reader\\_0786418664](https://www.amazon.com/American-Capitals-Encyclopedia-National-Territorial/dp/0786418664/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1429040504&sr=1-1&keywords=hauck+american+capitols#reader_0786418664)). Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Co. pp. 150–1. ISBN 0899505511.
3. "State House History" (<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/statehousehistory.asp>). New Jersey Legislature. 2018. Retrieved July 5, 2020.
4. Matt Arco, [What's your \\$300M for Statehouse renovations getting so far? Here's an inside look.](https://www.nj.com/politics/2018/03/look_inside_the_statehouse_during_renovations.html) ([https://www.nj.com/politics/2018/03/look\\_inside\\_the\\_statehouse\\_during\\_renovations.html](https://www.nj.com/politics/2018/03/look_inside_the_statehouse_during_renovations.html)), NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (March 4, 2018).
5. Samantha Marcus, [\\$300M Statehouse renovation sparks conflict between Murphy administration, Legislature](https://www.nj.com/politics/2019/10/300m-statehouse-renovation-sparks-conflict-between-murphy-administration-legislature.html) (<https://www.nj.com/politics/2019/10/300m-statehouse-renovation-sparks-conflict-between-murphy-administration-legislature.html>), NJ Advance Media for NJ.com (October 22, 2019).
6. "Travel to the NJ State House. For Free. Field Trip!" (<http://civiceducator.org/free-field-trip-nj-statehouse/>). *The Civic Educator*. 2017-09-11. Retrieved 2017-09-12.

## External links

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- [History of State Capitol](http://www.nj.gov/nj/gov/njgov/statehouse.html) (<http://www.nj.gov/nj/gov/njgov/statehouse.html>)
  - [NJ Legislature - Welcome to the State House](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visitin_gstatehouse.asp) ([http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visitin\\_gstatehouse.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visitin_gstatehouse.asp))
  - [State House Virtual Tour](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/statehousetour.asp) (<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/statehousetour.asp>)
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